Quanta Resources Superfund Site Community Update

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Edgewater, New Jersey — June 2005

Contents:

Field activities begin at the Quanta Resources Superfund site in Edgewater, New Jersey

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Field Work Begins

Field work for the **remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS)** for the Quanta Resources Superfund site is set to begin this summer. The RI/FS will further determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site and addresses both the land portion of the site (surface and subsurface soils, groundwater and **coal tar creosote**) and the river portion of the site (sediments and coal tar in the Hudson River near the site). The RI/FS will also include additional indoor air monitoring of the building complex at 115 River Road.

Where is the Quanta Site located?

The Quanta Resources Superfund site is made up of the former Quanta Resources Corporation property located at 163 Old River Road in Edgewater, New Jersey and portions of neighboring properties where contamination associated with the Quanta site have come to be located.

The former Quanta Resources Corp. property covers about 15 acres and is bordered to the north by "City Place/Promenade" (formerly Celotex Industrial Park), to the south by the 115 River Road Office Complex (formerly Spencer-Kellogg Industrial Park), to the west by Old River Road, and to the east by the Hudson River. The realignment of River Road in 1995-1996 bisects the site.

View of Quanta Resources Superfund site from City Place

What kind of activities took place at Quanta?

From about 1876 to 1896, Page, Kidder & Fletcher Chemical Works operated a coal tar plant on the property that included both the Quanta and Celotex properties. Page, Kidder & Fletcher Chemical Works later became New York Coal Tar Chemical Co. and later sold the land and operations to Barrett Manufacturing in 1896, who manufactured coal tar, paving and roofing materials.

In the early 1930s, Allied Chemical Corporation Asphalt Division (which later became AlliedSignal before merging with Honeywell in 1999) took over Barrett

EPA will be hosting a public information session to discuss the Quanta Resources Superfund Site on:

June 28, 2005

from **3:00 - 5:00 PM** and **7:00 - 9:00 PM**

at the

Edgewater Community Center

1167 River Road

Edgewater, New Jersey

Glossary

Remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS)- An in-depth study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site; establish site cleanup criteria; identify preliminary alternatives for remedial action; and support technical and cost analyses of alternatives. The remedial investigation is usually done with the feasibility study. Together they are usually referred to as the "RI/FS".

Coal tar creosote - This product is a mixture of many chemicals created by high-temperature treatment of coal. Coal tar creosote is a thick, oily liquid that is typically amber to black in color. It is used as a wood preservative and is used in roofing and road paving. EPA has classified coal tar creosote as a probable human carcinogen.

polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - Polychlorinated biphenyls are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds (known as congeners). PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence that they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects.

polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) - Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances. Long term exposure to PAHs may cause cancer.

National Priorities List - EPA's list of hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial action under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. A site must be on the NPL to receive money from the National Superfund Trust Fund for remedial action.

Manufacturing and operated a tar processing plant on the Quanta property and the southern portion of the former Celotex property.

In 1974, Allied Chemical sold the property to James Frola and Albert Von Dohln. In 1977, Mr. Frola and Mr. Von Dohln leased the property to E.R.P. Corporation for the storage and recycling of oil. Shortly thereafter, E.R.P. assigned its lease to Edgewater Terminals, Incorporated. Quanta Resources Corporation obtained usage of the property through the transfer of the lease from Edgewater Terminals.

The property contained 61 above ground storage tanks with a total capacity of over 9 million gallons, at least 10 underground storage tanks, septic tanks, and numerous underground pipes. These tanks stored oil, tar, asphalt, sludge, process water, and other unknown liquids. Oils and sludges were shipped to the property from refineries, chemical plants, and other industries for processing. From 1974 to 1981 Quanta Resources operated a waste oil processing facility.

Removal Actions at Quanta

On July 2, 1981, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) forced the closing of the Quanta Resources facility when it was discovered that the storage tanks contained large quantities of oil with **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).**

Between 1984 and 1987, removal actions were conducted at the property. These actions were supervised by EPA and focused on cleaning and decommissioning the abandoned storage tanks and piping. Approximately 1.35 million gallons of PCB-contaminated oil was removed for off-site treatment. Over 1.5 million gallons of coal tar were removed from storage tanks and recycled. Over 60 aboveground storage tanks and 10 underground storage tanks, as well as numerous underground pipes were removed.

Analytical data from sampling events between 1992 and 1999 indicated the presence of elevated levels of **polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)** and metals, as well as the existence of an extensive coal tar creosote plume.

The site was placed on the **National Priorities List** on September 5, 2002, making it eligible for long-term cleanup under Superfund.

What type of contamination is found at Quanta?

Groundwater underneath the site and adjacent properties is primarily contaminated with arsenic, chromium, lead, PAHs, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Soils at the site are predominantly contaminated with arsenic, chromium, lead, and PAHs. PCBs were detected at low levels in the soil in localized areas. Sediments near the site in the Hudson River contain elevated levels of arsenic, chromium, lead, PAHs, VOCs and coal tar creosote.

A large coal tar creosote plume exists in the subsurface soils at the site. It is extends approximately, from north to south, beneath the southern portion of the former Celotex property, underneath the Quanta and 115 River Road properties, to the northern portion of the Unilever property; and from west to east, beneath a portion of the former Quanta property west of River Road to approximately 750 feet into the Hudson River. At low tide, discharges of coal tar creosote from the mudflat and areas of the bulkhead are visible, creating sheens (photo below).

Coal tar creosote sheens at Quanta

Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) - This program provides money for activities that help your community participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to $50,000 is available to qualified community groups so they can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. For more information you can contact:

Carol Hemington
U.S. EPA Region 2
(2OPM-GCMB)
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Health Precautions

While the immediate threats to human health were addressed by the removal actions, hazardous substances still remain at the site. Trespassers are at risk from incidental ingestion of contaminated soils in the upland area and sediments in the mud flats. Recreation, such as swimming, boating, jet-skiing, etc., in the Hudson River near the site is not recommended. NJDEP has issued a fish consumption advisory for certain species caught in the Hudson River. People are advised not to eat the fish and crabs caught near the site.

Public Participation

Public participation is essential to the success of the Superfund program. Through public meetings, availability sessions, mailings and information repositories, we are available to address your questions regarding the Quanta Resources Superfund site.

In order to facilitate public understanding of the issues surrounding the Quanta site, EPA will be hosting a public information meeting at the **Edgewater Community Center** on **Tuesday, June 28, 2005** from **3:00 to 5:00 PM** and from **7:00 to 9:00 PM.** The afternoon meeting will be an informal session where interested parties can meet with EPA and state officials on a one-to-one basis. There will be no formal presentations during that session. The evening session will include a formal presentation followed by a question and answer period.

Warning sign at Quanta

Superfund Regional Public Liaison Manager
EPA Region 2 has designated a public liaison as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express concerns, or register complaints about Superfund. The public liaison for EPA's Region 2 office is:

George H. Zachos
U.S. EPA, Region 2
2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211
Edison, NJ 08837
(732) 321-6621
Toll-free (888) 283-7626

Need more information? Here's three ways to get what you need.

CALL

EPA personnel will be happy to answer your questions or add you to the permanent site mailing list. You can call:

Natalie Loney
Community Involvement Coordinator
(212) 637-3639 or (800) 346-5009

Richard Ho
Remedial Project Manager
(212) 637-4372

READ

You can review documents and reports on the Quanta site at EPA's information repository located at:

Edgewater Free Public Library
49 Hudson Avenue
Edgewater, New Jersey 07020
(201) 224-6144

SURF

EPA has information on the Superfund process, the Quanta Resources Superfund site and other hazardous waste sites in New Jersey on our website at:

www.epa.gov/region02/superfund